

ALESSANDRO MARTIRE: Good afternoon to everybody and MR. Secretary. I'm Professor Alessandro Martire, assistant professor from Florence, Italy. I serve as an international lawyer of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, at the Commissioner for Human Rights in Ginevra since the year 2000. And I am an assistant of the University Antropologia e Diritto. And today, just by coincidence I saw this meeting and I inquired to be part of it, because my country, my government, and tomorrow I'll be signing of Protocol of Friendship with the Oglala Nation, and that will be brought tomorrow by me, and my assistant here, Dr. Anna Secci. This Protocol of Friendship issued by my government is taking in particular importance, the Food Nutrition Program you are speaking about, and many tribes are speaking here. And my government of Italy, particularly the Tuscan Region government, issued a Protocol of Friendship that will be signed tomorrow, if I can give you a copy today, which we are giving our form of support to the Native American Nation, better known as the Oglala Sioux Tribe. As far as our concerns, the problem of diabetes, and as far as concern for nutritional programs.

In the act that will be signed tomorrow, we mention these problems. And my government is issuing a support to the tribe by issuing pro bono, without asking for any money, doctors, nurses, and we would provide for them a system, an ambulance for door-to-door service for the needed people afflicted by the plague of diabetes. This is the first project we are trying to have with Aboriginal people of North America, that we possibly could expand this project of support to other Aboriginal people of North America within the United States of American, in cooperation with South Dakota has been informed, and as guest of my government in 2004, and expressed all the needs of the Native Americans of the State of South Dakota. We possibly could expand our help to the other tribes. Just to let you know, MR. Secretary, my government oversees, in particular attention, in particular with the needs of the Aboriginal people in North America. And we are starting to give our support.

So, our support will be issued for all the tribes that need this kind of help. And the program is helped by the government of Tuscany, the Tuscany Region, and the University of Florence, Docente di Antropologia e Diritto, where I assist, and we are the first Italian hospital that deals with diabetes. That is the hospital, we send the doctors and nurses over and they go to Porcupine clinic within the Oglala Sioux Tribe. And we are doing this pro bono, completely. We don't ask for nothing, as well as my work as international lawyers is pro bono. Just to let you know, and let you know to the honorable representatives of the different nations that are present here, that my country is paying a lot of attention to your problem, especially the problem with the food and diabetes. Thank you, MR. Secretary, and to all those here. Thank you, very much.